

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



REVISED product from the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)

- [“Medicare Learning Network® \(MLN\) Suite of Products & Resources for Educators and Students”](#) Educational Tool, ICN 903763, Downloadable only.

MLN Matters® Number: MM8883

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8883

Related CR Release Date: September 19, 2014

Effective Date: December 22, 2014

Related CR Transmittal #: R3071CP

Implementation Date: December 22, 2014

Manual Update to Clarify Claims Processing for Laboratory Services

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for Medicare practitioners providing laboratory services to Medicare beneficiaries and billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) or Durable Medical Equipment Medicare (DME) MACs for those services.

Provider Action Needed

Change Request (CR) 8883 updates the "Medicare Claims Processing Manual" to clarify that the location where the independent laboratory performed the test determines the appropriate billing jurisdiction for specimen collection fees and travel allowance. The changes are intended to clarify the existing policies and no system or processing changes are anticipated. Make sure your billing staffs are aware of these policies.

Key Points

The manual updates, which are attached to CR8883, are as follows:

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- The location where the independent laboratory performed the test determines the appropriate billing jurisdiction. If the sample originates in a different jurisdiction from where the sample is being tested, the claim must be filed in the jurisdiction where the test was performed.
- Claims filing jurisdiction for the specimen collection fee and travel allowance is also determined by the location where the test was performed. When billed by an independent laboratory, the specimen collection fee and travel allowance must be billed in conjunction with a covered laboratory test.
- The specimen collection fee is paid based on the location of the independent laboratory where the test is performed and is billed in conjunction with a covered laboratory test.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR8883 issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3071CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Net/work-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html> under - How Does It Work.

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